

File # 4984, Doc. # 2

Subject: Additional info about ALPS Valdemars

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I Personal knowledge:

First time I heard about V.A. was when I was in Germany in 1951. A member of the LPKDA, ENDZIŅŠ Ilgars (see card 7674) told me that V.ALPS is living at Göttingen, British Zone, and allegedly is working for the British Intelligence Service; there was also some rumor that V.A. is or has been involved in smuggling of jewels (or blackmarketing). As far as I remember, the American officials I had to deal with at that time were also interested in the person of V.A. - I was asked several times about him. I had no more info about him as the a/m or nephews but I had the following recollections about ALPS Jānis, one of his brothers, in the spring of 1942, while on an assignment to the card-index section (Abteilung III) of the Hqs of the SD in Riga, Reimersa Street, I worked together at the same office with Mrs. ALPS (first name Lidijs or Lilijs). She was employed as a typist, was ab. 30 years old and of mixed Latvian-Esthnian origin. Besides, I knew her sister, who was a student at the Academy of Agriculture in Jelgava in 1940/41, and in 1942 got married to her fellow student.

Mrs. ALPS was a very gay woman who was on good terms with the German officers at this office, Hauptscharführer GRIMM (from Westfalia, Germany) and GOLTZ (from Bavaria). She was often visited ^{in this office} by her husband Jānis ALPS. The latter was working at that time at the Latvian ~~XXXXXX~~ Police which was subordinated the German SD. As far as I remember he had the rank of Criminal Inspector and his chief was either OZOLINS Aleksandrs (see card 5777) or TREIDMANIS Herberts ^(see card 5561) - the first in charge of criminal, the other of political matters. In any case this Jānis ALPS had his office in the same building, where the SD only the entrance was not from Reimersa St Street but from Raiņa Boulevard. Judging by the clothing and the way of life, Mrs. and Mr. Jānis ALPS were very well off.

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at that time.

I am not quite sure whether this Janis ALPS in fact is the brother of Valdemars ALPS - it is possible that he was a nephew since at that time he was about 35-40 years old but one of V.ALPS' brother, Janis ALPS him too, is born 1896 (see further).

While having a meeting with Agent 1940 (see File # 1940, Doc. # 47, p.3), the latter told me that ^{SUSPECT #15} H. BRUNAVS has complained to him about BERZINS Alfreds, the former minister. The latter, according to H. BRUNAVS, tries to denounce the brother i.l. of H. BRUNAVS to the American authorities. The motive of this was told to be some old controversy between Alfr. BERZINS and the brother i.l. of H. BRUNAVS while the latter was the chief of the Latvian Political Police and Alfr. BERZINS his subordinate. Apparently H. BRUNAVS is the brother i.l. of V. ALPS since the latter held such post in free Latvia.

While having a meeting with Agent 909 in May '56, the latter told that he knows Valdemars ALPS from the time in Germany and that recently he has met him here in the States at some railroad station (presumably in New York). Agent got the impression that V.A. is watching the passengers, i.e. trying to identify some faces. When Agent asked V.A. what he is doing here, the latter gave an evasive answer. In Agent's opinion, "who once has worked on security matters will never cease to do it" - Agent is convinced that V.A. is still working in this field, possibly employed now by the FBI.

II Excerpts from Latvian newspapers:

In the 1 Aug. and 4 Aug. '56 issues of "Laiks" there are two articles by Valdemars ALPS where he describes his experience on fighting the Communist agents in Latvia in 1919-1921. The introduction of these articles states that Capt. V. ALPS was first the chief of the espionage (izlūkošanas) section at the Hqs of the Latvian Army Commander-in-Chief, later the chief of the Political Police.

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At the end of 1919 the a/m espionage section caught in Riga two Soviet agents who came from Moscow in order to organize the communistic underground in the Baltic States. V.ALPS got in touch with the Estonian military attaché in Riga, Capt. JIRGENSONS, later went to Tallin where he together with the Estonian security organs succeeded in large arrests of the local Communists.

Around the same time V.ALPS got info about the section of the Hqs of the Western front of the Red Army, which was located in Smolensk and was sending spies to Latvia; arrested in Riga a Soviet agent, MIKELSONS; got hold on a Soviet instruction for their agents in Latvia.

In the second installment of his article V.ALPS describes a case which was published also in the issues of 25 and 26 December, 1919, of "The New York Times" as reported by Walter DURANTI from Riga. This was the case of a courier from Moscow who tried to come to the States with special instructions for the Communists in the USA. This courier, a seaman of Russian origin with the documents under the name of KOTLAROV, was arrested in Riga and V.ALPS found in the heel of his boots 62 brilliant and 160 ~~documents~~ ^{documents} written on a very thin paper. - Since the Subcommittee of the 84th Congress did not mention this case in the booklet which it published at the end of 1955, V.ALPS sent the copy of the a/m instruction together with a short explanation to the chairman of this committee, Senator EASTLAND, some other senators and Bishop SHEEN.

In "Latvija Amerika", 5 May 1956, there is an article by BRUNAVS written due to the 60th anniversary of ALPS Janis. According to this article J.ALPS joined the Latvian Rifle Regiment as one of the first. Commander of his company was the well-known Latvian writer, GRINS Aleksandrs, who suggested that J.A. writes a daily diary - later it was published in a book "Kara viesuli". In Christmas 1916 J.A. became POW of the Germans. After his release he joined the Latvian Army in Sept. 1919, later got awarded with the Liberation Cross of Latvia. After WW II in exile in Germany but immigrated in the USA in 1950. Here he lives together with his wife at St. Paul, Minn. and is active in the social life of the Latvians there. SECRET